

Appl. No.: (not yet assigned)

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/00200)

Preliminary Amdt. Dated July 7, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A cartridge comprising:

a container for housing a connected staple;

a driving section for driving a staple;

a conveying path which extends from said container to said driving section, and conveys said connected staple;

a feeding member which is disposed in a position remote from a guide wall forming the conveying path, and reciprocates along the conveying path; and

a feeding claw ~~having~~ comprising a leading end portion which is attached to said feeding member, and projects into the conveying path from an opening formed in said guide wall; ~~and~~

said connected staple being fed toward the driving section by said feeding claw when said feeding member advances,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said feeding claw is drawn into the opening of a wall surface of said guide wall when a lid of said container is opened.

2. (Currently Amended) A cartridge comprising;

a container for housing a connected staple;

a driving section for driving a staple;

a conveying path which extends from said container to said driving section, and conveys the connected staple;

a feeding member which is disposed in a position remote from a guide wall forming said conveying path, and reciprocates along the conveying path; and

a feeding claw ~~having~~ comprising a leading end portion which is attached to said feeding claw, and projects into the conveying path from an opening formed in said guide wall; ~~and~~

said connected staple being fed toward the driving section by said feeding claw when said feeding member advances,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said cartridge further comprises a movement device to move said feeding member in a direction opposite to ~~the~~ a conveying direction of the connected staple when a lid of said container is opened, and

said feeding claw is drawn into the opening of said guide wall when said feeding member is moved backward by said movement device.

3. (Currently Amended) The cartridge according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said movement device is a link mechanism.

4. (Currently Amended) A cartridge comprising:

a container for housing a connected staple;

a driving section for driving a staple;

a conveying path which extends from said container to said driving section, and conveys said connected staple;

a feeding member which is disposed in a position remote from a guide wall forming the conveying path, and reciprocates along the conveying path; and

a feeding claw ~~having~~ comprising a leading end portion which is attached to said feeding member, and projects into the conveying path from an opening formed in said guide wall; ~~and~~

said connected staple being fed toward the driving section by said feeding claw when said feeding member advances,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said cartridge further comprises a movement mechanism for moving said feeding member in a direction opposite to ~~the~~ a conveying direction of the connected ~~staple~~; staple,

said movement mechanism ~~includes~~ comprises a sliding plate which moves said feeding member in the opposite direction by moving in said opposite direction and a link mechanism which moves the sliding plate in the opposite direction by opening said lid, and

said feeding claw is drawn into the opening of said guide wall when said feeding member is moved backward.

5. (Currently Amended) The cartridge according to Claim 3 ~~or Claim 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said link mechanism ~~includes~~ comprises a link member which is pivotably supported on a base member provided on said conveying path, and a connected member in which one end is supported by said lid and ~~the other~~ a second end is supported by said link member,

said connected member rotates said link member by opening said lid, and

said feeding member or said sliding plate is moved in ~~the~~ an opposite direction by ~~the~~ rotation of said link member.

6. (Currently Amended) The cartridge according to ~~any one of Claim 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ , wherein said connected staple is a roll staple in which the staples are connected and wound.

7. (New) The cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein
said link mechanism comprises a link member which is pivotably supported on a base member provided on said conveying path, and a connected member in which one end is supported by said lid and a second end is supported by said link member,
said connected member rotates said link member by opening said lid, and
said feeding member or said sliding plate is moved in an opposite direction by rotation of said link member.

8. (New) The cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said connected staple is a roll staple in which the staples are connected and wound.

9. (New) The cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said connected staple is a roll staple in which the staples are connected and wound.

10. (New) The cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein said connected staple is a roll staple in which the staples are connected and wound.

11. (New) The cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein said connected staple is a roll staple in which the staples are connected and wound.

12. (New) The cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said connected staple is a roll staple in which the staples are connected and wound.